

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 03999 241354Z

42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

AID-05 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-10 IGA-01 /088 W

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R 241221Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7678

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 3999

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID US IN

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF PL-480 AGREEMENT

1. ALL ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS FROM THE RIGHT WING MOTHERLAND TO THE COMMUNIST PATRIOT CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORIES ON MARCH 21 ABOUT THE SIGNING OF THE PL-480 TITLE I AGREEMENT. COVERAGE WAS LARGELY DRAWN FROM UPI REPORTS AND WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD, IF RELATIVELY BRIEF. MOST ITEMS NOTED THAT THE NEGOTIATION HAD BEEN UNDER WAY FOR MONTHS DURING A PERIOD OF "STRAINED" INDO-US RELATIONS. MOST ALSO CARRIED AGRICULTURE UNDER SECRETARY CAMPBELL'S STATEMENT THAT "INDIA IS A VALID CUSTOMER AND FRIEND OF THE USA" LINKING THE STATEMENT WITH THE NOTATION THAT INDIA IS AT THE PRESENT THE LEADING FOREIGN PURCHASER OF US WHEAT. EDITORIALLY THE EXPRESS WELCOMED THE AGREEMENT BUT USED IT AS A PEG TO CHIDE GOVERNMENT AND TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER THE FUTURE FOOD SITUATION. A THOUGHTFUL NATIONAL HERALD EDITORIAL WELCOMED THE AGREEMENT AS A "SIGNALLING OF THE PROCESS OF HEALING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES" EVEN THOUGH "THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO AND THE US STAND ON A NUMBER OF OTHER ISSUES ARE LIKELY TO RANKLE IN THE INDIAN MIND FOR A LONG TIME TO COME." BUT IT CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS ALSO "GOOD TO KNOW THAT COOPERATION... IS NOT HAVING TO WAIT ON THE RESOLUTION OF POLICY DIFFERENCES IN OTHER FIELDS.SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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